

hydroxy-4-(methylthio)butanoic acid, zinc salts of 2-hydroxy-4-(methylthio)butanoic acid, alkane esters of 2-hydroxy-4-(methylthio)butanoic acid, alkane amides of 2-hydroxy-4-(methylthio)butanoic acid, and oligomers of 2-hydroxy-4-(methylthio)butanoic acid, and

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using the nutritional model to formulate [formulating] a ration from the identified feed ingredients to meet the determined methionine needs of the ruminant which comprises mixing one or more grains with [a] the hydroxy analog of methionine, wherein (i) the ration is formulated on the basis that at least 20% of the hydroxy analog of methionine is assumed to be available for absorption by the ruminant, and (ii) the ration does not comprise a bypass fat.

Please amend claim 18 as follows:

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18. (amended) The ruminant feed ration of claim 12 wherein the amount of the hydroxy analog of methionine is determined by a nutritional model wherein the nutritional model is a computer program[selected from the group consisting of Cornell Net Carbohydrate and Protein System (CNCPS) and University of Pennsylvania DAIRYLP].

Please cancel claim 19.



REMARKS

Claim 9 has been amended to further distinguish it from claim 7 and to make reference to the hydroxy analog of methionine that already had antecedent basis within the claim.

Claim 18 has been amended to delete the Markush group containing Cornell Net Carbohydrate and Protein System (CNCPS) and University of Pennsylvania DAIRYLP software modeling programs.

Claim 19 has been canceled.

Claims 1-18 are in the application and stand ready for action on the merits. Reexamination and reconsideration of the present application in view of the remarks presented below are respectfully requested.